Application No.: 09/217,03⌣
10/25/2001

In The Claims:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Please substitute amended claims 2, 6, 8 and 10 for pending claims 2, 6, 8 and 10 as follows:

2.   A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:
identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said
        observation window including a target pixel;
determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse horizontal edge; and
    compacting horizontal features within said observation window,
        wherein said step of compacting horizontal features comprises
    shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated
        pixel to a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel; and
    updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

6.   A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:
identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said
        observation window including a target pixel; and
compacting vertical features within said observation window, wherein said
        step of compacting vertical features comprises
        determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge,
        shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated
            pixel to a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel, and
        updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

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8. A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel;

compacting horizontal features within said observation window;

compacting vertical features within said observation window; and

compacting corner features within said observation window, wherein:

said step of compacting horizontal features modifies said target pixel and a first pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said first pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse horizontal edge,

said step of compacting vertical features modifies said target pixel and a second pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said second pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge, and

said step of compacting corner features modifies a pixel within said compaction window when said target pixel is within a diffuse corner.

10. A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel;

determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse corner;

shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel; and

updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

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Please add a new claim 21 as follows:

20 21.   The method of claim 17, wherein said step of compacting gray pixels
within said diffuse gray edge comprises:

shifting gray from a first pixel that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to a
second pixel that is adjacent to a saturated pixel, and

updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

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